

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-21, 23-37, 44-45, 47-80, and 85-91 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 48 is amended to restore a dependency on claim 1 that was accidentally omitted in “Amendment D.” No new matter is entered.

Response to Election Requirement

Applicants elect “substance capable of specific binding to a preselected component of a sample.” All pending claims (claims 1-21, 23-37, 44-45, 47-80, and 85-91) read thereon. In particular, claims 5-20, 51, 86, and 91 each expressly require a substance capable of specific binding. The remaining claims also read on thereon, because they do not impose limitations that would exclude the features of the provisionally elected species. That is, including a “substance capable of specific binding to a preselected component of a sample” does not exclude the possibility of including an elution reagent, second wash reagent, lysis reagent, or any of the other species listed in the election requirement or in the claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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